

Measure I

Measure I will be on the November 8 ballot to continue library services



The City of Riverside has placed Measure I on the November 8 ballot in order to continue and enhance library programs and services.

In 1992, the State shifted funds from cities to meet their budget obligations causing a reduction in local funding. In an effort to secure a dedicated revenue source for our local libraries, the City placed Measure C – a \$19 annual parcel tax – on the ballot in 2002. The measure passed with a 69% majority. This funding source will generate \$1.43 million for libraries this year which represents 22% of the overall library budget. However, Measure C has a ten year term and is due to expire in June of 2012.

The Riverside Public Library has used the Measure C funds along with general funds to serve Riverside's 300,000 plus residents, through extended hours of operation, books, electronic resources, materials for the hearing and visually impaired and by providing programs to engage residents in reading and education.

If approved by voters, Measure I will allow the City to continue funding for programs such as homework and reading programs as well as allow the libraries to further the goals of future priorities such as additional computers and programming.

If approved, provisions of the Measure I extension of the parcel tax will be the same as what currently exists, which means no tax increase, all funds will be restricted for library services only and it will expire in ten years.

In order to vote on Measure I, individuals must be registered voters within the City of Riverside. The deadline to register is October 24, 2011.



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Measure I frequently asked questions

Q: What is Measure I?

A: Measure I is a proposal to continue funding for library programs and services for children, teens, seniors and adults, without raising taxes, by extending the existing annual library parcel tax that was approved by voters in 2002 by a 69% majority. The existing measure provides 22% of the Library opening budget.

Q: What will Measure I funds provide?

A: If passed, Measure I funds will help maintain a variety of library programs to support lifelong learning such as:

- Children's programs such as storytime in English and Spanish, homework programs, craft and Science activities and in connection with RUSD, the Accelerated Reader program
- Teen Programs such as Brainfuse and afterschool tutoring
- Senior Programs such as the home delivery of books for those who are immobile
- Extensive access to public computers
- Services for the visually and hearing impaired

Q: Why was Measure I placed on the ballot?

A: The Riverside City Council placed Measure I on the November 2011 ballot because without it, this locally controlled revenue source for libraries will be lost.

Q: Can these funds be taken by the State?

A: No, funds from Measure I are legally required to stay here in Riverside, giving us local control and the ability to maintain library services.

Q: Will Measure I increase my taxes?

A: No. If approved, the existing library parcel tax will continue to remain at the same level it has been since 2002, \$19 per parcel per year, with no increases, for ten years.

Q: How do we know that funds will be spent responsibly?

A: Measure I funds are subject to annual, independent audits.

Q: Who is eligible to vote on this measure?

A: Registered voters who reside within the City of Riverside.

Q: How do I register to vote?

A: Obtain paperwork from either the City Clerk or the County Registrar of Voters and submit it by October 24, 2011.

Q: When is the election?

A: November 8, 2011.

